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SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Claims 22-27 of the patent application are pending. Claims 22-27 are allowed.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to by the Examiner under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a). Corrected drawings are required that show the stripper rubber, drilling head equipment and the down hole tubular. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance and no new subject matter should be entered.

REMARKS**Drawings**

A replacement drawing sheet and an annotated drawing sheet for Figure 1 are submitted herewith to overcome the objection to the drawings. No new subject matter has been entered. Entry after final of the corrected drawing is respectfully requested.

Corrected Figure 1 includes Fig. 1E which shows adapter 100 together with the stripper rubber, the drilling head equipment and the down hole tubular.

Support for Fig. 1E may be found in the applicant's original specification. For example, paragraph [006] describes a stripper rubber as follows: "Pressure control is achieved by means of one or more stripper rubbers connected to the bearing assembly and disposed around the drill string. At least one stripper rubber rotates with the drill string. Stripper rubbers typically taper downward and include rubber or other resilient material so that the down hole pressure pushes up on the rubber, pressing the rubber against the drill string to achieve a fluid-tight seal. Stripper rubbers often further include

metal inserts that provide support for bolts or other attachment means and which also provide a support structure to minimize deformation of the rubber caused by down hole pressure acting on the rubber.”

Additional support may be found in paragraph [0032] of the specification, which states “[t]hreaded end 350 extends through cam pin bore 120 of adapter 100 and threadedly connects to a stripper rubber and cam pin body 310 is disposed within cam pin bore 120 of adapter 100.”

The applicant respectfully submits that paragraphs [006] and [0032] of the applicant’s specification provide support for the stripper rubber element of Fig. 1E, including the stripper rubber inserts and cam elements disclosed in the above referenced paragraphs of the applicant’s specification.

Support for the down hole tubular element of Fig. 1E may be found in the applicant’s specification at paragraph [0021] which states “[t]he generally cylindrical shape of adapter 100 defines a primary bore 110, through which a down hole tubular, such as a drill string, may be extended.” The applicant respectfully submits that paragraph [0021] of his specification provides support for the down hole tubular element of Fig. 1E.

Support for the drilling head equipment of Fig. 1E may be found in the applicant’s specification in paragraph [0042], which states “[t]o replace a stripper rubber, the stripper rubber must be disconnected from the drilling head equipment. To disconnect a stripper rubber pursuant to the present invention, it is a simple matter of rotating cam locks 200 to disengage the locks from the pins by aligning the corresponding concave portions of each element. Cam pins 300 attached to the stripper rubber will then slide

relatively easily out of cam pin bores 120 of adapter 100 and the stripper rubber is disconnected from the equipment. A new stripper rubber with cam pins 300 is connected to the equipment as described above."

The applicant respectfully submits that paragraph [0042] of the applicant's specification provide support for the equipment element of Fig. 1E.

It will be noted that the corrected drawing at Fig. 1E includes reference numerals to indicate the stripper rubber, the equipment and the down hole tubular. These reference numerals have been included for the convenience of the reader of the patent and, as explained above, do not inject any new subject matter in to the application but merely provide context to the elements of the drawing which are supported by the applicant's specification. The applicant therefore respectfully requests that the reference numerals not be deemed to be new subject matter and that they also be entered after final along with the corrected drawing.

Specification

Amendments to the specification pursuant to 37 CFR §1.121 are submitted herewith in both a marked-up version and a clean version. No new subject matter has been added. Entry of the amendments to the specification after final is respectfully requested. The purpose of the amendments to the specification is merely to adjust the written description in view of the corrected drawing, all the elements of which are supported in the applicant's original specification. The amended specification includes mention of the reference numerals in the corrected drawing but the reference numerals are not new subject matter because the elements they refer to have support in the

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applicant's original specification as forth above in the explanation of the corrected drawing.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests entry of the corrected drawing after final, entry of the amendments to the specification after final, reconsideration of the final rejection by the examiner, advancement of the application to allowance and the issuance of letters patent.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this paper, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted

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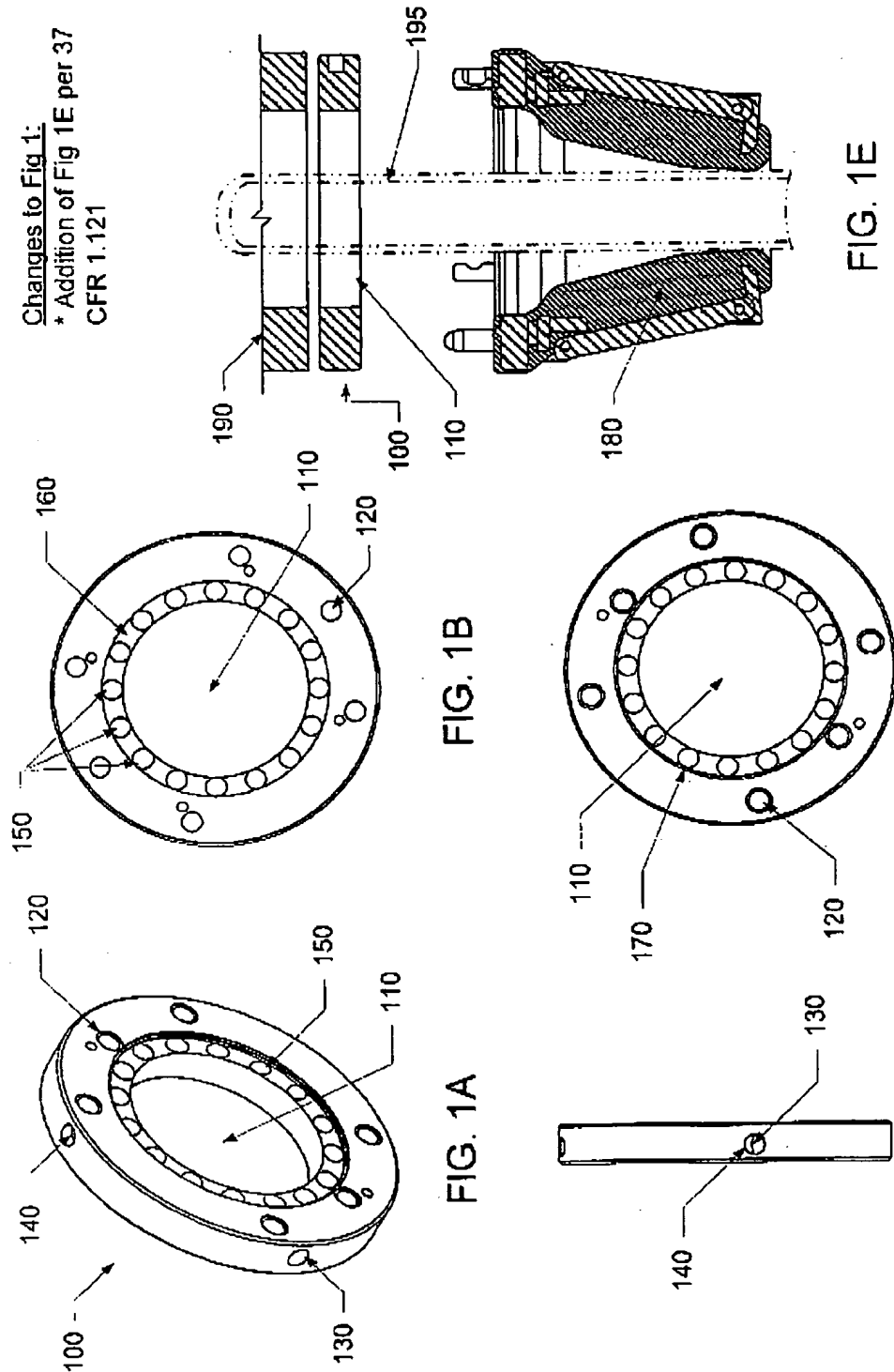
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Annotated Sheet

Changes to Fig. 1:
* Addition of Fig 1E per 37
CFR 1.121



AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION
Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.121

Please substitute the new paragraph [0012], below, for the original paragraph [0012]:

[0012] The present invention is further described in the detailed description that follows, by reference to the noted drawings by way of non-limiting examples of embodiments of the present invention, in which like reference numerals represent similar parts throughout several views of the drawings, and in which:

Fig. 1A is a perspective view schematic drawing of an adapter of one embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 1B is top view schematic drawing of the adapter of Fig. 1A.

Fig. 1C is a side view schematic drawing of the adapter of Fig. 1A.

Fig. 1D is a bottom view schematic drawing of the adapter of Fig. 1A.

Fig. 1E is an exploded side view cross-section of a stripper rubber connection to drilling head equipment with an adapter of Fig. 1A.

Please substitute the new paragraph [0026], below, for the original paragraph [0026]:

[0026] Fig. 1E is an exploded side view cross-section of a stripper rubber connection to drilling head equipment with an adapter of Fig. 1A. Adapter 100 connects to stripper rubber 180 as described herein below and connects to

equipment 190 also as described herein below. Down hole tubular 195 extends through equipment 190, adapter 100 through bore 110 and stripper rubber 180.

Patent Application Ser. No.: 10/776,325
Response to the Final Office Action dated June 9, 2006